

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-14 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SWF-02

OMB-01 FEA-02 SS-20 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00 SAM-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2065

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: FRANCE CHARACTERIZES OECD SECGEN'S PARTICIPATION IN ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP AS INOPPORTUNE AND NOT USEFUL.

1. SUMMARY. SECGEN VAN LENNEP INFORMED OECD COUNCIL MARCH 12 THAT HE HAD ACCEPTED PERSONAL INVITATION TO ATTEND BRUSSELS MEETING OF ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP (ECG) MARCH 13-14. HE INDICATED THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD INFORMED HIM THAT IN ITS VIEW HIS PARTICIPATION IN ECG WOULD BE "INOPPORTUNE AND NOT USEFUL". VAN LENNEP SAID HE WOULD TAKE FULLY INTO ACCOUNT VIEWS OF GOF AND OTHER MEMBERS OF COUNCIL IN "IMPLEMENTING HIS PARTICIPATION" AT ECG MEETING. SPEAKING WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, FRG DEL EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR VAN LENNEP'S PARTICIPATION AT ECG WHICH HE THOUGHT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD HELP OECD TO PERFORM ITS TASKS BETTER. END

SUMMARY.

2. UNDER OTHER BUSINESS IN COUNCIL MARCH 12, SECGEN VAN LENNEP SAID CHAIRMAN OF ECG HAD INVITED HIM TO PARTICIPATE OR BE REPRESENTED AT ECG MEETING IN BRUSSELS MARCH 13-14. HE SAID HIS PARTICIPATION WOULD BE LIMITED TO THOSE ITEMS ON WHICH ECG DESIRED HIS PRESENCE AND ON WHICH HE WISHED TO CONTRIBUTE IN AGREEMENT WITH ECG. VAN LENNEP SAID SIMILAR INVITATIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED BY WITTEVEEN (IMF) AND MACNAMARA (IBRD) WHO WOULD EITHER ATTEND PERSONALLY OR BE REPRESENTED AT A HIGH LEVEL. HE STRESSED THAT HE WOULD ATTEND MEETING IN PERSONAL CAPACITY AND PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS OF SELECTED ITEMS BUT NOT IN DECISIONS OF ECG. HENCE, HE WOULD HAVE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR DECISIONS OF ECG EITHER IN PERSONAL CAPACITY OR IN CAPACITY OF SECGEN OF OECD. VAN LENNEP FELT HIS PARTICIPATION WAS DESIRABLE ON PRACTICABLE GROUNDS BOTH TO KEEP ECG FULLY INFORMED OF OECD WORK AND VICE-VERSA. HE LIKENED HIS PARTICIPATION IN ECG TO THAT IN C-20 AND G-10. HE ALSO POINTED TO THE DESIRABILITY OF OECD HAVING A LINK WITH IMPORTANT WORK BEING DONE BY ECG, A LINK OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THOSE OECD COUNTRIES NOT REPRESENTED IN ECG. IN CONCLUDING REMARKS, VAN LENNEP INFORMED COUNCIL THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD INFORMED HIM THAT IN ITS VIEW HIS PARTICIPATION IN ECG WOULD BE "INOPPORTUNE AND NOT USEFUL". HE SAID HE WOULD TAKE FULLY INTO ACCOUNT VIEWS OF GOF AND OTHER MEMBERS OF COUNCIL IN "IMPLEMENTING HIS PARTICIPATION" IN ECG.

3. FRENCH DEL (VALERY) CONFIRMED THAT GOF FELT IT INOPPORTUNE AND NOT USEFUL FOR VAN LENNEP TO PARTICIPATE IN ECG. HE QUESTIONED WHETHER VAN LENNEP WOULD INDEED BE PARTICIPATING IN PERSONAL CAPACITY OR WHETHER HIS PARTICIPATION CORRESPONDED TO FACT THAT HE WAS SECGEN OF OECD. HE ALSO ASKED IF IT WERE NORMAL FOR SECGEN OR DESIGNEE TO PARTICIPATE IN GROUP IN WHICH ONE MEMBER COUNTRY HAD EXPRESSLY DECIDED NOT TO PARTICIPATE. VALERY SAID HE DID NOT WISH TO PURSUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JURIDICAL QUESTION NOW BUT NOTED THAT THERE WERE RELEVANT OECD RULES AND PRACTICES WHICH GOF MIGHT WISH TO RAISE LATER. VALERY URGED SECGEN TO CONSIDER HIS ACTION CAREFULLY IN LIGHT OF FIRM GOF POSITION. HE SAID HE WOULD REPORT DISCUSSION TO HIS AUTHORITIES AND PURSUE MATTER FURTHER IF NECESSARY.

4. SPEAKING WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, GERMAN DEL (EMMEL) SAID ON PERSONAL BASIS THAT HE CONSIDERED IT USEFUL AND NECESSARY FOR VAN LENNEP TO TAKE PART IN ECG, PARTICULARLY SINCE IMF AND IBRD WOULD BE REPRESENTED. HE FELT SECGEN'S PARTICIPATION WOULD HELP OECD PERFORM ITS TASKS BETTER.

5. IN BRIEF INTERVENTION GREEK DEL (APOSTOLIDIS) SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE QUESTION, VAN LENNEP'S PARTICIPATION AT ECG SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO FORMAL COUNCIL APPROVAL. VAN LENNEP SAID HE WOULD BE PARTICIPATING IN PERSONAL CAPACITY, TAKING FULL ACCOUNT OF VIEWS EXPRESSED. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE SAID, A FORMAL COUNCIL DECISION WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE.

6. SINCE VALERY GOT NO OTHER SUPPORT AND SECGEN OBVIOUSLY NOT WAVERING ABOUT INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE, US REP (BROWN) FELT IT PREFERABLE NOT TO INTERVENE. AFTER COUNCIL MEETING, SECGEN TOLD JULIUS KATZ THAT HE WOULD BE REPRESENTED AT MEETING BUT WOULD NOT ATTEND THIS WEEK'S SESSION PERSONALLY.
BROWN

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